

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03081 150525Z

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SY-02 USSS-00
PM-03 SP-02 L-01 PA-01 ICAE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00
NSAE-00 DODE-00 A-01 OPR-01 IO-06 ACDA-10 INRE-00
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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 477

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 3081

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, PGOU, KS, US

SUBJ: DEMONSTRATIONS AT US EMBASSY

1. IN LIGHT OF THE CONTINUING DEMONSTRATIONS, GENERAL VESSEY EXPRESSED YESTERDAY HIS GREAT CONCERN TO CHOI, YOUNG HI, CHAIRMAN, FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, AND GENERAL LEW BYONG HIUN. IN BOTH MEETINGS, GENERAL VESSEY DEPLORED THE DEMONSTRATIONS AND INDICATED THAT THIS KIND OF ACTIVITY ON THE PART OF KOREANS WAS BOTH COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND DANGEROUS. TO CHAIRMAN CHOI, VESSEY SAID THAT HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO BUG IN BLUE HOUSE AND EXPRESSED HIS SORROW THAT THIS ISSUE HAD REEMERGED AT A TIME WHEN OTHER VERY SERIOUS MATTERS DEMANDED CALM AND RATIONAL NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. HE POINTED OUT THAT THIS PROCESS WAS DIFFICULT TO PURSUE IN AN ATMOSPHERE HIGHLY CHARGED BY THE DEMONSTRATIONS. HE ENCOURAGED THE ROK GOVERNMENT TO SETTLE THE MATTER SPEEDILY SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED TO WORK ON THE REALLY SERIOUS ISSUES.

2. THE GENERAL LEW, HE EXPRESSED HIS ESTREME CONCERN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 03081 150525Z

THAT THE DEMONSTRATORS HAD NOW TURNED TO US MILITARY FACILITIES (THERE WAS A SMALL DEMONSTRATION AT A FACILITY NEAR YONGSON). HE SAID THIS UNFORTUNATE DEVELOPMENT MIGHT HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS IN THE UNITED STATES, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE US MILITARY LEADERSHIP. GENERAL VESSEY SUGGESTED THAT IN LIGHT OF THE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE US MILITARY INSTAL-

LATION, THE DEMONSTRATORS MIGHT BE GETTING OUT OF HAND. IT SEEMED THAT GENERAL LEW WAS SURPRISED TO HEAR ABOUT THE INCIDENT AND PROMISED TO REPORT IT TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE IMMEDIATELY AND TO PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTION TO US MILITARY INSTALLATIONS.

3. LAST NIGHT, THE AMBASSADOR HAD A CONVERSATION WITH KIM KYONG WON, DURING WHICH KIM POINTED OUT THAT THE KOREAN EMOTIONS WERE RUNNING EXTREMELY STRONG ON THE ALLEGED BUGGING INCIDENT. THE DEMONSTRATIONS WERE BEING ALLOWED IN ORDER TO PERMIT THE KOREAN PEOPLE TO "LET STEAM OFF". KIM WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE TACTIC OF DENYING THAT THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER HAD ALREADY BEEN SENT HAD BEEN DEVELOPED TO PROTECT THE LETTER, SINCE IF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY HAD KNOWN OF ITS AVAILABILITY, IT COULD HAVE ASKED FOR IT, THEREBY MAKING THE TEXT PUBLIC. KIM THOUGHT THAT THE LETTER WOULD NOT SATISFY THE KOREAN PEOPLE AND, THEREFORE, FELT THAT IT BEST REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE DENIAL HAD PLACED US IN A DIFFICULT POSITION BUT FELT THAT KEEPING IT CONFIDENTIAL WAS THE WISER COURSE.

4. THE AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED STRONG OBJECTIONS TO THE ROKG TACTICS, LEAVING NO DOUBT IN KIM'S MIND OF THE RISKS INVOLVED IN THE ROKG DECEPTION. FATE OF THE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER IS WELL KNOWN BY AN EVER-INCREASING CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 03081 150525Z

NUMBER OF KOREANS.

5. ASSISTANT MINISTER RHIE MOON YONG CALLED DCM SATURDAY AM TO INFORM HIM THAT MOFA WOULD MAKE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT MONDAY AM, PROVIDING SUBSTANCE OF LETTER ALONG WITH STATEMENT THAT LETTER WAS WRITTEN AT INSTRUCTIONS OF SECRETARY VANCE. DCM TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE RHIE SUBSTANCE OF STATE 096879. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMBASSIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780162-0194
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780452/aaaabsqk.tel
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Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 941228ad-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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